

the ground with wonderful rapidity, their feet beating the ground in exact time with the whacks of the master of the ceremonies; though close together, they glided about without touching each other, and fell into innumerable figures, their faces always turned to the fire.

After rest and refreshment, they began another dance, in which a portion of them, taking tufts of grass in their mouths, imitated the actions of the kangaroo. After quietly feeding and hopping about for a while, like kangaroos, they were followed by the rest of the party, who, in their real character, began to creep after the kangaroos to surprise them. The ludicrous bounds and manœuvres of pursuit and escape were quite astonishing, and the act ended by the pretence of putting one of the representatives of the captured kangaroos on the fire to be roasted. This they called the Kangaroo Dance. They then gave us the Emu Dance, in which, with one arm raised to form the neck of the bird, the hand twisted to represent the head, with the body stooped, they went through all the actions of this bird, and with the most amazing effect.

The most interesting of all the amusements came last, and it is no doubt one of their religious ceremonies. They stood in a semi-circle round the fire, when the king approached one end of it, and with a wailing voice repeated a word in distinct syllables, beating a stroke upon the shield to each, namely, "Yal-lul-la-by." The word was repeated with him by the man he addressed, who at each syllable used a different action, with body and arms, so that at the fourth syllable he was down upon the knee. The king addressed the next, who performed as the first, who still kept the song and inflexion of the body, so that when the king got to the further end, every man was giving the same note and action, and the whole looked like one vast machine performing its operations with unerring accuracy. It was an incantation of the most diabolical appearance imaginable. One of the *gins*, or ladies, was so excited, that she took up a tin dish upon which they had had some food, and with a large stick stationed herself next to the first man the king had brought to his knee, and supported the harmony, yelling out "Yal-lul-la-by" in a truly frightful manner. When all had been engaged in this manner for some time they started up with a scream, and danced round the fire in a circle, until every man of them smoked as if he formed an essential part of a great steam apparatus.

I asked the king what this dance meant, and he pointed to the moon then full above our head, and said, "Good to black fellow." No doubt he would have proceeded to acknowledge that the ceremony was in honour of the moon, had not one of the others, who had stood his grog better than King Cobra, stepped up and said, "New Zealand man's dance." He meant the name to mislead, for they are very secret in all their religious ceremonies.

THE seed of the common cowslip, sown in the garden, it is well known, produces numerous varieties; particularly many with blossoms more or less of a red colour, which may be considered as the first approach towards a polyanthus, and are often very brilliant and beautiful. A red-blossomed cowslip in my garden this year produced some very large heads: I had the curiosity to count the individual blossoms on one of the stalks, and found them amount to 173: there were two other stalks about the same size, besides nineteen smaller ones. Thus, there were produced, by one cowslip root, the large number of 685 pips or blossoms; viz., three large bunches containing 173 each, and nineteen smaller ones producing together 166.—REV. W. T. BREE.

THE PEPPYS'S.—Samuel Pepys, in his entertaining Diary, of the date April 26th, 1664, writes as follows:—"My wife gone this afternoon to the buriall of my she-cosen Scott,—a good woman: and it is a sad consideration how the Pepys's decay: and nobody, almost, that I know in a present way of increasing them." How little did the writer of this memorandum imagine, that, at a future day, one of his family would be High Chancellor of Great Britain. Lord Cottenham being collaterally descended from him. Of the same family was the late Sir Lucas Pepys, physician to King George the Third. The above-mentioned Samuel Pepys, who settled at Cottenham, the place from which the present Peer took his title, had no children. In a Latin inscription on a white marble monument, erected to his wife in the church of St. Olave, Hart Street, London, a whimsical reason is given for her having died childless; namely, because she could not possibly have had any offspring equal to herself! Both were buried in a vault under the communion-table of St. Olave's: her bust, over the epitaph, is remarkably well carved, but there is no tablet or inscription to his memory. He survived his wife nearly thirty-four years; she having died in 1669, he in 1703.

GENTLENESS, which belongs to virtue, is to be carefully distinguished from the mean spirit of cowards, and the fawning assent of sycophants. It removes no just right from fear: it gives up no important truth from flattery; it is, indeed, not only consistent with a firm mind, but it necessarily requires a manly spirit and a fixed principle, in order to give it any real value.—BLAIR.

AFFECTATION is the wisdom of fools, and the folly of many a comparatively wise man. "It is," says Johnson, "an artificial show; an elaborate appearance; a false picture." Surely it must be a most inferior judgment which prefers counterfeit to real; and which employs art, labour, and pretence, to produce that which is spurious and vile, whilst the genuine commodity requires no such effort.

DON'T not the pleasantness of this place carry in itself sufficient reward for any time lost in it? Do you not see how all things conspire together to make the country a heavenly dwelling? Do you not see the blades of grass, how in colour they excel the emerald, every one striving to pass his fellow, and yet they are all kept of an equal height! And see you not the rest of those beautiful flowers, each of which would require a man's wit to know, and his life to express! Do not these stately trees seem to maintain their flourishing old age, with the only happiness of their being clothed with a continued spring, because no beauty here should ever fade? Doth not the air breathe health, which the birds, delightful both to ear and eye, do daily solemnize with the sweet concert of their voices? Is not every echo thereof a perfect music? and those fresh and delightful brooks, how slowly they slide away, as loth to leave the company of so many things united in perfection, and with how sweet a murmur they lament their forced departure!—DRAKE, 1629.

ALL information pursued without any wish of becoming wiser or better thereby, I class among the gratifications of mere curiosity, whether it be sought for in a light novel or a grave history.—COLERIDGE.

FOR a young and presumptuous poet (and presumptuousness is but too naturally connected with the consciousness of youthful power) a disposition to write satires is one of the most dangerous he can encourage. It tempts him to personalities, which are not always forgiven after he has repented and become ashamed of them; it ministers to his self-conceit; if he takes the tone of invective, it leads him to be uncharitable; and if he takes that of ridicule, one of the most fatal habits which any one can contract, is that of looking at all things in a ludicrous point of view.—SOUTHEY.

I AM infinitely delighted with those speculations of nature, which are to be made in a country-life; and as my reading has very much lain among books of natural history, I cannot forbear recollecting upon this occasion the several remarks which I have met with in authors, and comparing them with what falls under my own observation: the arguments for Providence drawn from the natural history of animals being in my opinion demonstrative.—ADDISON.

## THE ART OF SECRET WRITING,

(Cryptography).

THE art of secret writing, sometimes called writing in cipher, has been employed to a great extent, by military and naval officers, for the purpose of conveying information as to the movements of the enemy, or other matters of importance, in such a manner as to prevent the discovery of the contents of a despatch in case of its being intercepted.

Many plans have been resorted to to attain this end; the simplest consists in writing with an ink which is colourless, and consequently invisible to the eye, until heat, or some chemical action has effected a change; some of these inks are very simple. The juice of an onion, or milk, will be invisible until exposed to a fire, when they will assume a brown colour; becoming scorched by the heat more readily than the other parts of the paper. Starch, dissolved in water, will, if employed, remain without colour until it is washed over with a weak solution of iodine, when it assumes a bluish hue. Water in which bruised oak-galls have been steeped, may be used as ink, and the writing will become black, if washed over with water in which a small quantity of green vitriol (*sulphate of iron*) has been dissolved. The common green sympathetic ink is well known: it is a very much diluted solution of cobalt in nitro-muriatic acid.

The characters written with this ink assume a green colour when the paper on which they are written is warmed at the fire, and resume their original invisible nature as soon as they become cold. This solution has been much used latterly in washing over different parts of prints representing landscapes with snow, and other subjects of a like nature; these, when brought near the fire, of course assume a green hue, so as to change the wintry landscape into the appearance of spring; but if the paper is over heated, the parts where the wash is spread become scorched, and the paper falls into holes.

All these plans, although very ingenious, are unsafe, as the means of discovering the writing are few and simple, and at the same time generally known; so that in the case of suspicion, detection is almost certain. Another method, which was more difficult to discover, was as follows:—the parties corresponding with each other were provided with a piece of paper, in which numerous holes were cut, the holes being exactly similar in each paper. The party about to convey information, laid his pierced paper on that which was to receive the writing, and wrote the words of his communication in the openings. The pierced paper was then removed, and the letter completed by filling up the spaces between the words already written with other words or sentences, so managed, as to cause the subject of the letter to appear to be on some indifferent matter; for instance, suppose it was necessary to write, *The French are within three miles*; the letter, when filled up, might stand thus:—

"The two curious French works you were so kind as to lend me are not *within* my comprehension, the language is so antiquated; but the *three* last books I received were delightful, and I know not how many *miles* I would not go to meet with others of the same description."

Here the great difficulty consists in filling up the spaces in such a manner as to cause the whole of the letter to read freely, so as to avoid suspicion; besides, if by any means the pierced paper was lost, the communication would become unintelligible.

Many other plans have been employed, but are all difficult to decipher, even by the initiated; although at the same time far from being perfectly safe from detection by others, whose interest it might be to bestow much labour on the task.

The method we are about to describe is, perhaps, the safest yet known, if it is not perfectly secure from discovery. It is worked by means of a table like the following, and a key, which is merely a simple word that can be easily retained in the memory.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z |
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A |
| B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B |
| C | D | E | F | G | H | I | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C |
| D | E | F | G | H | I | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D |
| E | F | G | H | I | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E |
| F | G | H | I | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F |
| G | H | I | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G |
| H | I | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
| I | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I |
| K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | K |
| L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | K | L |
| M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | K | L | M |
| N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | K | L | M | N |
| O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | K | L | M | N | O |
| P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | K | L | M | N | O | P |
| Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q |
| R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R |
| S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S |
| T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T |
| U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U |
| V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V |
| W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W |
| X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X |
| Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y |
| Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z |





pulses of returning hope. On his knees did the eye of God see that poor man, by the broad still stream that glittered in the sunbeams, and human eyes soon saw him too; for round that headland, covered with tangled brushwood, boldly advances the little boat, propelled by its lusty rowers. The lost one raises his feeble voice on high,—it was a loud shrill scream of joy and fear. The rowers pause and look around; another, but feebler scream,—and they observe him. It comes—his heart flutters—his sight is dimmed—his brain reels—he gasps for breath—it comes!—it has run upon the beach, and the lost one is found."

It only remains to say, that the distance between the cabin and the hummock, to which the woodsman was bound, scarcely exceeded eight miles, while the part of the river at which he was found was thirty-eight miles from his house; calculating his daily wanderings at ten miles, we may believe that they amounted in all to four hundred; he must, therefore, have rambled in a circuitous direction, which people generally do under such circumstances. Nothing but the great strength of his constitution, and the merciful aid of his Maker, could have supported him for so long a time.

#### A SWISS VALLEY.

At the foot of Monte Rosa, in the district of Varello, there is a small borough of 1200 inhabitants, called Alagna, where there has not been a criminal trial, not even a civil suit, for the last four hundred years. In case of any wrong committed, or any very blameable conduct, the guilty person, marked by public reprobation, is soon compelled to quit the country. The authority of fathers, like that of the patriarchs, continues absolute all their lives, and at their death they dispose of their property as they please, by verbally imparting their last will to one or two friends, whose report of it is reckoned sufficient; no objection is ever made to such a testament. Not long since a man died worth four thousand pounds sterling,—a large fortune in that country; he bequeathed a trifle only to his natural heir. The latter met accidentally, at the neighbouring town of Varello, a lawyer of his acquaintance, and learned from him that he was entitled, legally, to the whole property thus unkindly denied him, and of which, with his assistance, he might obtain possession very shortly. The disinherited man at first declined the offer, but, upon being strongly urged, said he would reflect upon it. For three days after this conversation he appeared very thoughtful, and owned to his friends that he was about to take an important determination. At last it was taken, and, calling on his legal adviser, he told him, "the thing proposed had never been done at Alagna, and he would not be the first to do it."

The property of these simple people consists of cattle. In their youth the men visit foreign countries for purposes of trade, the stock of many of them consisting wholly of figures representing green parrots, Chinese mandarins, and other objects, cast in plaster, and stuck on a board, which they carry on their heads, but they rarely fail to return home with the money thus gained; and even those whom superior talents, or better opportunities, have enabled to amass a fortune, still seek that dear native land again, and return unchanged by foreign manners.

—SIMOND'S *Switzerland*.

SIMPLICITY of conduct and of manners, the unquestionable indications of sound sense and of a correct taste, exonerate their happy possessors from the whole of that toilsome load which the enslaved and feeble minds of artificial characters constantly sustain.

#### INFLUENCE OF THE FEMALE CHARACTER.

If mankind had been perpetuated without their milder companions, a strong and iron race would have inhabited the earth. There is something in the active spirits and powers of the manly portion of our common species which loves difficulties, enterprise, exertion, dangers, and personal display. These qualities and propensities would too often animate self-love and selfishness into continual strife, civil discord, and battle, if no softer and kinder companions were about such beings, to occupy some portion of their thoughts and attentions, to create and cherish milder and sweeter feelings, and to provide for them the more soothing happiness of a quiet home and a domestic life. Tenderness, sympathy, good humour, smiles, gentleness, benignity, and affection, can diffuse pleasures more grateful than those of irritation and contest, and awaken the sensibilities that most favour intellectual and moral cultivation.—SHARON TURNER.

#### TO THE EVENING BREEZE.

SPIRIT that breathest through my lattice! thou

That cool'st the twilight of the sultry day!

Gratefully flows thy freshness round my brow;

Thou hast been out upon the deep at play,

Riding all day the wild blue waves till now,—

Roughening their crests, and scattering high their spray,

And swelling the white sail. I welcome thee

To the scorch'd land, thou wanderer of the sea!

Nor I alone:—a thousand bosoms round

Inhale thee in the fulness of delight;

And languid forms rise up, and pulses bound

Livelier, at coming of the wind of night;

And, languishing to hear thy grateful sound,

Lies the vast inland, stretched beyond the sight.

Go forth into the gathering shade; go forth

God's blessing, breathed upon the fainting earth!

Go rock the little wood-bird in his nest;

Curled the still waters, bright with the stars, and rouse

The wide old wood from his majestic rest,—

Summoning from the innumerable boughs

The strange, deep harmonies, that haunt his breast;

Pleasant shall be thy way where meekly bows

The shutting flower, and darkling waters pass,

And 'twixt the o'ershadowing branches and the grass.

The faint old man shall lean his silver-head

To feel thee; thou shalt kiss the child asleep,

And dry the moisten'd curls that overspread

His temples, while his breathing grows more deep;

And they who stand about the sick man's bed,

Shall joy to listen to thy distant sweep,

And softly part his curtains to allow

Thy visit, grateful to his burning brow.

Go! but the circle of eternal change,

That is the life of nature, shall restore,

With sounds and scents from all thy mighty range,

Thee to thy birth-place of the deep once more;

Sweet odours in the sea-air, sweet and strange,

Shall tell the home-sick mariner of the shore;

And, listening to thy murmur, he shall deem

He hears the rustling leaf and running stream.—BRYANT.

THERE is no slight danger from general ignorance; and the only choice which Providence has graciously left to a vicious government, is either to fall by the people, if they are suffered to become enlightened, or with them, if they are kept enslaved and ignorant.—COLERIDGE.

HE keeps the Lord's day best that keeps it with most religion and with most charity.—BISHOP JEREMY TAYLOR.

AFFECTATION may be compared to a coat of many pieces and divers colours, ill fitted, and neither stitched nor tied.

WISE sayings often fall on barren ground: but a kind word is never thrown away.—*Thoughts in the Cloister and the Crowd.*

## THE BLACKBIRD

RENDERS IMPORTANT SERVICE TO MAN IN THE DESTRUCTION OF THE GRUBS OF THE COCKCHAFER.

IN the month of August, 1832, I was struck with the rather unusually large assemblage of blackbirds which frequented my garden; eight or ten were frequently to be seen together; and one morning I counted thirteen at the same time hopping about and chattering on the grass-plot before the house. Their visits were usually paid about eight o'clock in the morning, and continued to arrest my attention for perhaps ten days or a fortnight. The birds directed their operations more especially to particular spots on the grass-plot, which they stocked up with their bills, till the turf, which changed colour, and was supposed to be dying, became almost bare in patches, and was quite disfigured by the refuse roots of grass, &c., which were left littered on the surface. Indeed, such was the rough and unsightly appearance which the grass-plot presented in consequence, that hints were even thrown out that the blackbirds ought to be destroyed; for they had been repeatedly seen in the very act of disfiguring the turf, and the whole mischief was, of course, from first to last attributed to them.

Suspecting what might be the object of the birds' research, I turned up a piece of turf with the spade, and found it almost swarming with the cockchafer-grubs, of various sizes; and this circumstance confirmed my suspicion that it was for the purpose of feeding upon these larvæ that the blackbirds had made such havoc of the grass-plot. They performed, in short, in this case, precisely the same service by destroying the cockchafer-grub, that the rooks are so well known to do. The turf, I should add, soon regained its wonted verdure, the injured patches being scarcely to be distinguished from the rest of the grass-plot.

Here then we have another instance of the "utility of preserving birds on farms and in orchards and gardens." The above fact also confirms me in the opinion that birds which subsist for the most part on vegetable food, do not confine themselves to that diet, but prefer to mix along with it some animal food likewise. There was plenty of fruit in the garden,—gooseberries and currants, which are so much to their taste,—when the blackbirds chose to be at the pains of stocking up the turf in order to devour the cockchafer-grubs. And yet I have heard the blackbirds called "a most pernicious race." They do, I admit, eat fruit,—no doubt of it: but the injury they commit in this way is more than compensated by the good services they perform in another; and I think, on the whole, we should be no gainers by destroying them. Were any of our common birds (or, indeed, other animals) to multiply to an unusual extent, and increase out of due proportion, they would immediately become a pest and a nuisance; on the other hand, were they to be annihilated, and the race to become extinct, or nearly so, we should soon miss their services, and be equally inconvenienced, because in either case the balance of nature would be destroyed.—REV. W. T. BREE.

WHEN we see the rapid motions of insects at evening, we exclaim, How happy must they be! So inseparably are activity and happiness connected in our minds.—*Thoughts in the Cloister and the Crowd.*

ALMOST every object that attracts our notice, has its bright and its dark side: he that habituates himself to look at the displeasing side, will sour his disposition, and consequently impair his happiness: while he who constantly beholds it on the bright side, insensibly meliorates his temper, and, in consequence of it, improves his own happiness, and the happiness of all about him.

## SNOWDON.

SNOWDON, or Snowdonia, is, in its most extended sense, the name of a ridge of mountains in Caernarvonshire, forming a kind of natural rampire, extending along the greatest part of that county, in the direction of north-west and south-east; but the name is usually limited to the peak of Snowdon and the neighbouring ridges.

The principal peak is about ten miles south of the Straits of Menai, which separate the Island of Anglesea from the Welsh coast. The peak itself is about three quarters of a mile above the level of the sea; but the ascent is in some places so gradual, that a man on horseback can ride to within a mile of its summit. But the general character of Snowdon is that of a pile of mountains rising one above the other, and presenting the appearance of a series of abrupt precipices and gradual slopes,—the whole group seems as placed there to form a natural barrier to protect the only defenceless side of the island of Anglesea.

At the end of the thirteenth century, this mountainous district was the scene of the conflicts between Edward the First and the Welsh, previous to his entire subjugation of the country. Here, also, the remnant of the Welsh bards took refuge, to save themselves from the fate of the greater part of their race, who had been cruelly massacred by the English king. Gray's celebrated poem of *The Bard*, represents one of this persecuted race seated on a rock, lamenting his comrades' death, and calling down curses on the head of the monarch:—

"Ruin seize thee, ruthless king!  
Confusion on thy banners wait!  
Though fann'd by conquest's crimson wing,  
They mock the air with idle state!  
Helm, nor hauberk's twisted mail,  
Nor e'en thy virtues, tyrant, shall avail,  
To save thy gentle soul from nightly fears,  
From Cambria's curse,—from Cambria's tears!"  
Such were the sounds that o'er the crested pride  
Of the first Edward scatter'd wild dismay,  
As down the steep of Snowdon's shaggy side  
He wound with toilsome march his long array.

The view from the summit of Snowdon is supposed to be equal in extent and beauty to any that can be witnessed. "The mountain," says Mr. Pennant, "from the summit, seems propped by four buttresses, between which are four great *cums*, or hollows; each, excepting one, had one or more lakes lodged in its distant bottom. The nearest was *Ffynnon Llys*, or the Green Well, lying immediately below; the waters of which, from this elevation, appeared black and unfathomable, and the edges quite green. Thence is a succession of bottoms, surrounded by the most lofty and rugged hills, the greater part of the sides of which resemble walls in appearance, and form a most magnificent amphitheatre.

"The *Wyddfa* is on one side; *Crib y Distyll*, with its jagged tops, on another; *Crib Coch*, a ridge of fiery redness, appears beneath the preceding; and opposite to it is the boundary called the *Llechwedd*. The view from this exalted situation is unbounded. I saw from it the county of Chester, the high hills of Yorkshire, part of the north of England, Scotland, and Ireland. A plain view of the Isle of Man and that of Anglesea, lay extended like a map beneath us, with every rivulet visible. I took much pains to see this prospect to advantage; sat up at a farmhouse on the west till about twelve, and walked up the whole way. The night was remarkably fine and starry. A short interval of darkness intervened, which was soon dispersed by the dawn of day. The sea, which bounded the western part, was gilded by the sunbeams at first

in slender streaks, but at length it glowed with redness. The prospect was disclosed like the gradual drawing up of the curtain in a theatre. The view was gradually unfolded, until the heat became so powerful as to attract the mists from the various lakes, which in a slight degree obscured the prospect. The shadow of the mountain was flung many miles, and showed the form of its summit. I counted between twenty and thirty lakes, either in this county or Merionethshire. The day proved so excessively hot, that the journey cost me the skin of the lower part of my face."

"At another visit," he writes, "a vast mist enveloped the whole of the mountain. The prospect below was horrible. It gave an idea of numbers of abysses, concealed by a thick smoke furiously circulating round us; very often a gust of wind formed an opening in the clouds, which gave a fine and distinct view of lake and valley. Sometimes they opened only in one place, at others in many, exhibiting a most strange and perplexing sight of water, fields, rocks, or chasms, in fifty different places."

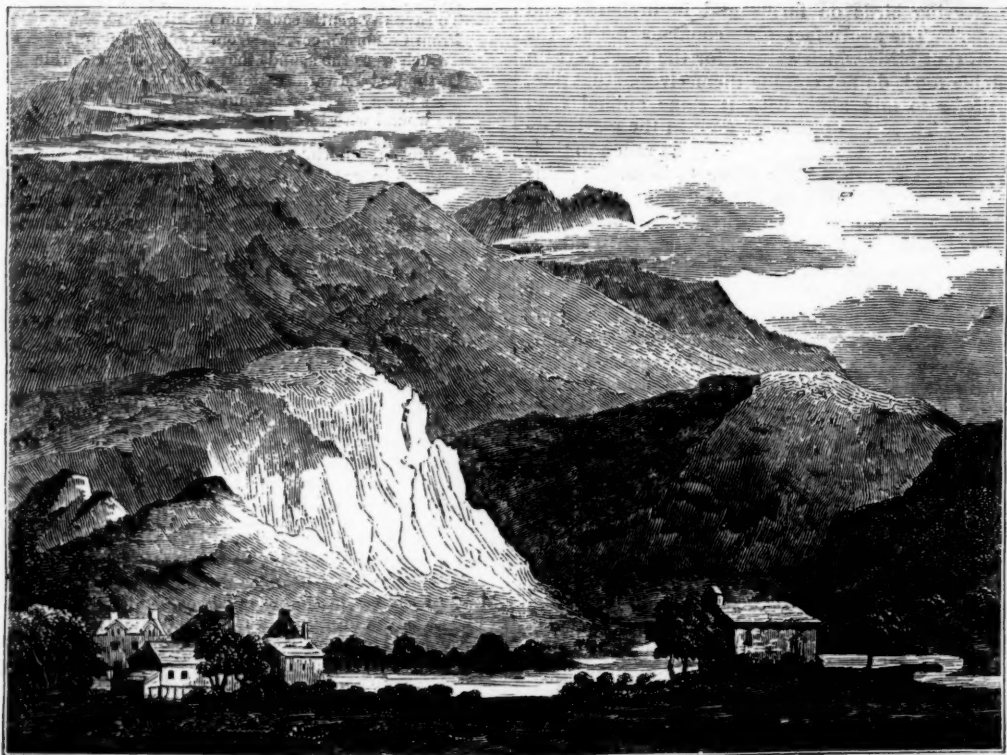
This mountain is noted among botanists for the numerous scarce plants which are found on its rocks. Near its summit, a spring of fine, clear, well-tasted water is found, extremely cold. Our view of this celebrated mountain is taken from the village of Beddgelart, which is delightfully situated in the midst of a tract of beautiful meadows, and six miles from the summit of the mountain.

Beddgelart is famous for the well-known tradition respecting the death of a favourite dog. This story, although it has often been the subject of the poet's pen, and the painter's pencil, is still, perhaps, worth repeating.

It is said that Llewellyn the Great came to reside at Beddgelart during the hunting-season, with his

wife and children, and one day, the family being absent, a wolf entered the house. On returning, his greyhound, called Cilliart, met him, wagging his tail, but covered with blood. The prince, being alarmed, ran into the nursery, and found the cradle in which the child had lain, overturned, and the ground covered with blood. Imagining the greyhound had killed the child, he immediately drew his sword and slew him; but on turning up the cradle, he found under it the child alive and the wolf dead. This so affected the prince, that he erected a tomb over the faithful dog's grave, where afterwards the parish church was built, and called from this accident, Bedd Cilihart, or the Grave of Cilihart.

In the Island of Ceylon, the Jackdaws are extremely impudent and troublesome; and it is found very difficult to exclude them from the houses, which on account of the heat are built open, and much exposed to intruders. In the town of Colombo, where they are in the habit of picking up bones and other things from the streets and yards, and carrying them to the tops of the houses, a battle usually takes place for the plunder, to the great annoyance of the people below, on whose heads they shower down the loosened tiles, leaving the roofs exposed to the weather. They frequently snatch bread and meat from the dining-table, even when it is surrounded with guests, always seeming to prefer the company of man, as they are continually seen hopping about near houses, and rarely to be met with in woods or retired places. They are, however, important benefactors to the Indians, making ample compensation for their intrusion and knavery; for they are all voracious devourers of carrion, and instantly consume all sorts of dirt, offal, or dead vermin; they, in fact, carry off those substances, which, if allowed to remain, would, in that hot climate, produce the most noxious smells, and probably give rise to putrid disorders. On this account they are much esteemed by the natives; their mischievous tricks and impudence are put up with, and they are never suffered to be shot or otherwise molested.—STANLEY'S *Familiar History of Birds*.



SNOWDON, WITH THE VILLAGE OF BEDDGEART.